

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 SS-15 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 HEW-02 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2293

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 0342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJ: AG EQUIPMENT/SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR ERADICATION/
INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN

LIMA FOR AMB. VANCE; S/NM FOR DUGSTAD; AID/SER/INC FOR
WAMPLER; ARA/MEX FOR KEANE; DEA FOR EOI CUSACK; ARA FOR
DEPT. ASST. SECRETARY OF STATE LUERS

REF: (A) MEXICO 11470, (B) MEXICO 11351, (C) MEXICO 11273,
(D) STATE 299494, (E) TELCONS: WEEK OF 5-8 JAN WITH
DUGSTAD/KEANE/WAMPLER/BROWN,

SUMMARY: REPEATED POSTPONEMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WITH DR. GERTZ AND SENIOR STAFF PROVED BENEFICIAL AS AMPLE
TIME WAS PROVIDED TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY CRITICAL ISSUES
IN OUR PREPARED TALKING POINTS AT WORKING LEVEL WITH
MARISCAL AND SOLIS. ALSO, WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE
AND APPROVAL FROM S/NM, ARA, AND INC OFFICERS PRIOR TO
MEETING WITH DR. GERTZ ON EVENING OF 8 JANUARY. MAJOR
ISSUE ON PILOT INSTRUCTORS (TECHNICAL ADVISORS) WAS RE-
SOLVED THROUGH DR. GERTZ'S INITIATIVE THAT ATTORNEY
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GENERAL'S OFFICE WOULD CONTRACT DIRECTLY WITH EVERGREEN

ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS. ON QUESTION PERTAINING TO USE OF GRAMOXONE IN HERBICIDAL SPRAYING, DR. GERTZ EMPHASIZED THEY ARE USING BOTH GRAMAXONE AND LOCALLY MANUFACTURED 2-4-D EQUIVALENT BUT STILL ARE RESEARCHING ANY OTHER AGENT APPROVED BY THE MEXICAN AGRICULTURE SECRETARIAT WHICH MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVE. EMBASSY FEELS THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SELECTION OF ANY HERBICIDE IS PREDICATED ON EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST MARIHUANA, AS PRIME CONSIDERATION WITH THAT CROP IS TO OBTAIN FAST WILTING EFFECT. ON MOPSS (REMOTE SENSING) ISSUE, DR. GERTZ VOICED MEXICAN RESERVATIONS ON CAPABILITY OF SYSTEM TO MEET THEIR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS; HOWEVER, HE WAS EMPHATIC THAT THEY STILL RELY ON MOPSS, WHILE EXPLORING OTHER TYPES OF PLATFORMS AND SYSTEMS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. END OF SUMMARY.

1. THE STEERING COMMITTEE (HEATH, BERNAL, PLUS HALL) MET WITH DR. GERTZ AND SENIOR STAFF (MARISCAL, SOLIS AND HENESTROSA) ON EVENING OF 8 JANUARY TO DISCUSS TALKING POINTS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT. COPY OF TALKING POINTS POUCHED THIS DATE. MAJOR TOPICS WHICH REQUIRE PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FOLLOW:

A. MICRO-FOIL SYSTEMS: FIVE SYSTEMS PROCURED UNDER THE BHC CONTRACT WITH DELIVERY BY 15 JANUARY VIA EVERGREEN C-47 WITH AUTHORITY TO LAND AT PACHUCA AIRPORT. DR. GERTZ NOTED THEY MAY REASSESS THE SITUATION BY MID-FEBRUARY AND COULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPRAY EQUIPMENT.

B. MODEL 212 SPRAY QUALIFIED PILOT INSTRUCTORS: DR. GERTZ MADE DECISION FOR GOM/AG OFFICE TO CONTRACT WITH EVERGREEN FOR FIVE PILOT INSTRUCTORS TO TRAIN AG CADRE ON MICRO-FOIL SPRAYING TECHNIQUES FOR NINETY-DAY PERIOD ON A USG REIMBURSABLE BASIS. MARISCAL DESIGNATED AS THE CONTRACT OFFICER TO MEET WITH EVERGREEN REP IN MEXICO CITY ASAP. INITIAL CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AG

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AND EVERGREEN REPS.

C. MICRO-FOIL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS: EVERGREEN WILL PROVIDE TWO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST AG PERSONNEL ON INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF UNIQUE MICRO-FOIL SYSTEM FOR PERIOD OF NINETY DAYS UNDER THE BHC CONTRACT WITH ARRIVAL IN MEXICO COINCIDENTIAL WITH EQUIPMENT DELIVERY.

D. RAPID AERIAL TRANSPORTATION FOR FIELD SUPERVISION, INSPECTIONS, AND EXECUTIVE TRIPS TO THE ZONES: DR. GERTZ TOOK AN ADAMANT POSITION ON THEIR ASSUMPTION OF AG LEVI PROMISE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED AIRCRAFT. (2 FAST TRANSPORT AND 2 STOL). CONSENSUS REACHED BY U.S. AVIATION TECHNICIANS ON BEST PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT WITH MINIMAL MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY WASHINGTON. DR. GERTZ ACCEPTED THE IMMEDIATE PROCUREMENT OF A USED CESSNA CITATION 500 SERIES TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. THIS REQUIREMENT JUSTIFIED ON BASIS OF NECESSITY TO MAKE FREQUENT STAFF INSPECTION AND LIAISON VISITS TO AN OPERATIONAL AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 MILES IN LENGTH. AV. OPS. ADVISOR HALL HAS LOCATED NINE U.S. SOURCES AND WILL FOLLOW UP ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON. LEADTIME FOR DELIVERY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS BARRING POSSIBLE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT PROBLEMS WHICH WERE EXPLAINED DURING MEETING. PILOTS FOR CITATION ARE NOT A PROBLEM ACCORDING TO MARISCAL AND MAINTENANCE WILL BE UNDER CONTRACT WITH REPUTABLE MEXICAN AGENCY. DR. GERTZ ACCEPTED THE CONDITION THAT XC-CON (14 YEARS OLD) WOULD BE RELEASED TO MAINTENANCE SECTION FOR FERRY FLIGHTS TO ZONES FOR PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS ONCE CITATION WAS DELIVERED.

E. STOL AIRCRAFT: A REQUIREMENT WAS IDENTIFIED FOR FIXED WING LOGISTICAL AND PERSONNEL TRANSPORT IN THE FORWARD OPERATIONAL ZONES. THESE AIRCRAFT WHICH CAN OPERATE ON ROUGH STRIPS OF LESS THAN 1,000 FEET CARRYING UP TO 1200 LBS. OF CARGO OR 8 PERSONNEL, CAN REDUCE UTILITY HELICOPTER REQUIREMENTS AND FREE THEM FOR OTHER MISSIONS. THE AIRCRAFT SELECTED IS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FAIRCHILD-HELI-PORTER. CONTACT WITH THE MANUFACTURER REVEALS THAT TWO ARE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. HALL WILL FOLLOW UP ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON, ETA 12 JANUARY.

F. TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT, AS STATED BY DR. GERTZ, FOR A FAST TRANSPORT OF MFJP AGENTS TO COVER WIDE RANGING INVESTIGATIONS IT WAS PROPOSED THAT FUNDS BE PROVIDED FOR A LEASE ARRANGEMENT. IN THIS MANNER THE APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT CAN BE LEASED TO MEET ANY OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT.

G. MECHANICS FOR THE NINE 206-B SIMPLEX II RETROFITTED HELICOPTERS: THE ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE BURDEN ON PRESENT AG RESOURCES WAS DISCUSSED WITH BH/RUSSELL IF OPTIMUM USE OF THE SPRAYING FLEET WAS

DESIRED. OUR TECHNICAL JUDGMENT ON CONTRACTING NINE MECHANICS TO MAINTAIN THE 206-B'S ON A ONE-ON-ONE BASIS WAS SUPPORTED BY RUSSELL AND ACCEPTED BY DR. GERTZ AND HIS SENIOR STAFF. PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH DR. GERTZ, WASHINGTON INFORMED NAU THAT COLOMBIAN AND ECUADORIANS (U.S. CITIZENS) HAVE BEEN LOCATED WORKING FOR PHI. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE UNDER BHC CONTRACT UNDER CALL PERSONNEL.

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H. SPRAYING OPERATIONS PLAN: DR. GERTZ AND SENIOR STAFF ACCEPTED THE OPERATIONAL PLAN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AT WORKING LEVEL WITH MARISCAL AND SOLIS CONSISTING OF FIVE SPRAYING TASK FORCES TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE CRITICAL AREAS INITIALLY IN THE STATES OF SINALOA, DURANGO, AND CHIHUAHUA IN THE NEW AND IN MICHOACAN AND GUERRERO IN THE SOUTH. THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MIX OF AIRCRAFT:

- (1) CESSNA 185 FOR COMMAND CONTROL AND RECON.
- (2) MODEL 212 WITH MICRO-FOIL SYSTEM.
- (3) MODEL 206-B WITH SIMPLEX II SYSTEM.
- (4) MODEL 212 FOR SECURITY AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

THE ADDITIONAL 206-B'S WITH SIMPLEX II SYSTEMS MAY BE USED TO REENFORCE ANY TASK FORCE AS NEEDED OR ATTACHED TO CONVENTIONAL GROUND DESTRUCTION TEAMS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY. OUR POSITION STIPULATED THAT TASK FORCES WOULD OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY UNDER THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER (CHIEF PILOT). DR. GERTZ QUALIFIED THIS STATING THEY ARE DESIGNATING A CHIEF OF OPERATIONS FOR EACH ZONE WHO WILL HAVE THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT

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AND COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES IN HIS ZONE AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO AG HDQS IN MEXICO CITY. DR. GERTZ FURTHER IDENTIFIED THE THREE SERVICE BASES LOCATED IN MEXICO CITY, GUADALAJARA AND DURANGO TO SUPPORT ALL THE ZONE OPERATIONS. WE FEEL THAT LOGISTICS WILL BE A MAJOR PROBLEM AREA AND STRESSED THIS POINT DURING THE DISCUSSION. DR. GERTZ JUDGED THAT THE COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE HE NOW HAS AND IS CONTRACTING WILL RESOLVE THIS CONCERN.

8. PAY SCALES FOR PILOTS: DR. GERTZ DESIGNATED MARISCAL TO WORK WITH HALL/FORD TO DEVELOP A REALISTIC PAY SCALE FOR ALL PILOTS BASED ON INCENTIVE BONUS FOR TYPE OF AIRCRAFT FLOWN, TYPE OF MISSION, QUALIFICATIONS OF PILOT, NUMBER OF HOURS, NUMBER OF MISSIONS, ETC. MEETING ARRANGED THIS EVENING WITH MARISCAL TO FINALIZE PROPOSAL FOR DR. GERTZ.

J. INDIVIDUAL PILOT EQUIPMENT: THE AG SENIOR STAFF EXPRESSED CONCERN ON THE INCREASED EXPOSURE OF THE SLOW FLYING (20 MPH) SPRAY HELICOPTERS TO POSSIBLE GROUND FIRE. A REQUEST WAS MADE FOR FIFTY FULL TORSO ARMOR VESTS FOR THE SPRAY CREWS. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THIS REQUEST.

K. MOPS SYSTEM: DR. GERTZ AND SOLIS EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS ON THE CAPABILITY OF PRESENT SYSTEM TO MEET THEIR EXTENSIVE LAND AREA PHOTOGRAPHING REQUIREMENTS AND ARE STILL EXPLORING OTHER MEANS TO INCREASE PHOTO-MOSACI PRODUCTIVITY; HOWEVER, THEY ARE USING MOPSS AND FLYING MISSIONS DAILY. WE EXPLAINED THAT BOTH TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE DEA AND SDC TECHNICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE SYSTEM IN THE PAST. DR. GERTZ REQUESTED THEIR PRESENCE IN COUNTRY TO MEET WITH SOLIS ASAP. SDC TECHREP GROTEWALD SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON 12 JANUARY AND IT WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL FOR DEA/SCHLESINGER TDY TO COINCIDE. DR. GERTZ INFORMED US THEY PLAN TO CONTRACT A PHOTO-RETROFITTED LEAR JET TO CONDUCT TESTS USING SDC CAMERAS BUT AT

HIGHER SPEEDS.

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L. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: DR. GERTZ ACKNOWLEDGED THE DELAY IN THE TELCOM INSTALLATIONS AND INFORMED US HE HAD REFUSED TO RENEW ENG. JIMENEZ VARGAS' CONTRACT UNTIL HE PRESENTS A COMPLETE INSTALLATION PLAN AND CONTRACTS THE TECHNICIANS. HE WELCOMES THE PRESENCE OF BOTH TELECOM ADVISORS AND REQUESTED THEY REPORT TO SOLIS WHO IS NOW HANDLING TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS.

M. MEXICAN NATIONAL QUALIFIED HELICOPTER PILOTS RESIDING IN U.S.: THE REQUEST POSED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA DURING ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVK'S VISIT WAS FOR US TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LOCATE MEXICAN NATIONAL QUALIFIED HELICOPTER PILOTS PRESENTLY RESIDING IN U.S. THE REQUEST STILL IS VALID AND REQUIRES A FORMAL RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH STEERING COMMITTEE HAS UNOFFICIALLY INFORMED DR. GERTZ AND HIS SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEARTH OF SUCH QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, WASHINGTON SHOULD PURSUE REQUEST FURTHER IN ORDER TO INFORM MISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE WE ARE TO GIVE THE GOM. (THE AMBASSADOR IS CONCERNED AND WOULD LIKE TO BE REASSURED THAT SEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED VIGOROUSLY AND IMAGINATIVELY AND WITH SUITABLE HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT.)

N. HERBICIDES: DR. GERTZ EXPLAINED THE AG OFFICE HAS NOT REACHED A FINAL DECISION ON TYPE OF HERBICIDE ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED GRAMOXONE TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER AGENTS IN HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY STILL ARE EXPLORING THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF OTHER LOCALLY PRODUCED HERBICIDES SIMILAR TO 2-4D OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL AGENT APPROVED BY THE MEXICAN AGRICULTURE SECRETARIAT. THE MOST RECENT FIELD TRIP CONDUCTED BY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PLUS FORD) AND PROF. SOLIS TO INSPECT SPRAYED POPPY FIELDS IN ARCELIA, GUERRERO AREA IS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL. WE HAVE ASSURANCE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SENIOR STAFF THAT LOCAL PRODUCTION OF HERBICIDES IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS.

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2. DR. GERTZ HAS REQUESTED A FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON JANUARY 13 TO REVIEW THESE TOPICS AND TO OBTAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF LEADTIMES INVOLVED. WE ALSO PLAN A MID-FEBRUARY REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE CAMPAIGN, AT WHICH TIME WE SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL 206 HELICOPTERS AND SIMPLEX SPRAY SYSTEMS MAY BE NEEDED. FOR NOW, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE ADEQUATE SPARE PARTS PACKAGES TO KEEP ALL SIMPLEX SYSTEMS IN OPERATION AND SEE NO NEED FOR BACKUP SYSTEMS AT THIS TIME. PENDING THIS ASSESSMENT, THE ONLY FURTHER U.S. ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS TIME IS FOR US TO COMPLY QUICKLY WITH OUR OBLIGATION TO GIVE OJEDA A DEFINITIVE REPLY CONCERNING MEXICAN NATIONAL HELICOPTER PILOTS RESIDENT IN U.S. JOVA

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